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that there were apparently two kinds of poisonous honey met with in Pontus, one found near Heracles and the other near Trebizond, the former being attributed by Pliny to a plant called "ægolethon" or goat's-bane, the other to a plant which both he and Dioscorides called "rhododendron;" but they also used the name "nerium" for it. Sibthorp has identified the latter as *Nerium Oleander*. Mr. Dod can find no direct evidence that *Rhododendron Ponticum* is poisonous; but *Azalea Pontica*, which occurs in profusion near Trebizond, about ten miles from the coast, he believes to possess poisonous properties similar to those attributed to *Kalmia latifolia*. It is a noteworthy fact, if correct, that no species of *Rhododendron* is known to be poisonous, while members of certain of the other Ericaceous genera, *Azalea*, *Kalmia*, *Andromeda* and *Ledum*, possess either poisonous or narcotic properties.

The Name Fishberries, which has long been applied to the fruit of Cocculus Indicus (*Menispermum Cocculus*, L.) because of its use in stupefying and capturing fish, is, according to Prof. James Hyatt, given to the drupes of *Prunus Caroliniana* in Tennessee, where they are locally used as a fish poison. It appears that the amount of hydrocyanic acid that this fruit contains is sufficient to poison the fish which swallow it, without rendering their flesh unsafe for food.

Botanical Literature.

Genera Pyrenomycetum schematice delineata. By P. A. Saccardo.

This latest work of the well known Italian mycologist consists of 14 lithographic plates, large 8vo, on which are delineated the 280 genera into which the Pyrenomycetes are divided in the system of classification adopted in the two volumes of the Sylloge by the same author. The figures, though not claiming artistic perfection, are good and answer well the end for which they were intended. They give, in fact, "a bird's eye view" of this vast family of fungi and may be considered as indispensable both to the amateur and the critical student of mycology. The low price of the work (6 francs) places it within the reach of all.—J. B. E.

Botanical Micro-Chemistry: an Introduction to the Study of Vegetable Histology, prepared for the use of students by V. A. Poulsen, translated with the assistance of the author and considerably enlarged by William Trelease, Professor in the University of Wisconsin. 12mo. Boston: S. E. Cassino & Co., 1884.

There has been considerable interest taken in this country for a few years past in the microscopic examination of plants, and the number of botanists who are turning their attention to the study of vegetable histology is gradually increasing. Although all the necessary apparatus for prosecuting this fascinating study has been easily procurable at moderate prices, there has hitherto been sadly needed some sort of a manual which should give the beginner directions how to proceed in the examination of the minute anatomy of tissues, while it should at the same time contain everything of importance that more advanced students might desire to be informed upon. This want has at length been supplied in the work before us, which, first published in Danish, then in French, German and Italian, has finally been translated into English by Prof. Trelease with the sanction of the author.

The work is divided into two parts: the first treats of micro-chemical agents and their application, with an appendix on cements and media for mounting purposes; and the second gives descriptions of the vegetable substances and the modes of recognizing them.

The work is rendered the more valuable by the additions that have been made by the translator, and by the numerous references to other works that give more detailed information than could be crowded into the compass of this. No student of vegetable histology can well afford to dispense with this work, and for this reason, and on account of its moderate price (one dollar), we predict for it a large sale.

Thirty-third Annual Report of the State Museum of Natural History. (Botany.) Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1880.

Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the State Museum of Natural History. (Botany.) Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1881.

From these interesting, but much belated reports of Mr. Peck the State Botanist, we learn that during the year 1879 specimens of, 183 species of plants were mounted and placed in the herbarium, none of which was before represented therein. Of plants new to the herbarium, collected by the botanist in person and contributed by correspondents, the number was 170. Sixty-eight of the latter (all fungi) were deemed new to science, and have therefore been named and described, and, in some cases, illustrated in the plates accompanying the pamphlet. During the year 1880 the number of plants new to the herbarium that were mounted and placed therein was 167. The number of plants new to the herbarium collected by Mr. Peck and contributed by correspondents was 98. Among these there were 38 species of fungi that were new to science. To his Thirty-third Report Mr. Peck appends an account of the New York species of *Amanita*, in which he has rewritten the descriptions and supplemented them with remarks upon the variations of the species, their peculiar characteristics and their distinguishing specific features. For the benefit of students of fungi, the synonyms have to some extent been given and the spore-characters of each species added.

It is to be regretted that the scientific names of the plants (especially the new species) enumerated in these Reports were not printed in italics in order to make them more easily distinguishable from the accompanying text.

Arctostaphylos: Notes on the United States Pacific Coast Species, from recent Observations of living Plants, including a new Species (*A. oppositifolia*) from Lower California.—*New Plants* from Southern and Lower California (*Phacelia suffrutescens*, *Ptelea aptera*, *Polygala Fishiæ* and *Gilia Orcutii*). By C. C. Parry. 8vo, pamph., pp. 10. (From the *Proceedings* of Davenport Acad. Nat. Sciences.)

Notes on the Cryptogamic Flora of the White Mountains. By W. G. Taylor. 8vo. pamph., pp. 20. (From *Appalachia* for December, 1883.)